

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising:
  - a housing having a distal edge and a proximal edge and a longitudinal exterior dimension from the distal edge to the proximal edge; and
  - a tape retractably coilable within the housing and extending from the distal edge of the housing, wherein the tape includes,
    - a distal end,
    - a first set of distance marks functionally identifying positions relative to the distal end, and
    - a set of inside measure distance indicators each for indicating a distance from the distal end of the tape to a corresponding distance mark plus the longitudinal exterior dimension of the housing,
  - whereby the apparatus may be employed to perform an inside measurement whose value is indicated by the tape.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the tape further includes:
  - a set of outside measure distance indicators each for indicating a distance from the distal end of the tape to a corresponding distance mark;
  - whereby the apparatus may be employed to perform an outside measurement whose value is indicated by the tape.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
  - the first set of distance marks includes major marks and minor marks; and
  - the longitudinal exterior dimension of the housing is a whole multiple of a distance between adjacent major marks.
4. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
  - an end piece coupled to the tape.

1        5.        The apparatus of claim 4 wherein:  
2                the end piece is coupled to the tape so as to have a predetermined distance of longitudinal  
3        slop;  
4                whereby the end piece can be used in making outside measurements and inside  
5        measurements.

1        6.        The apparatus of claim 4 wherein:  
2                the end piece is rigidly coupled to the tape and includes a portion which is perpendicular  
3        to the tape for hooking over an end of an object to be outside measured; and  
4                the tape further includes a second set of distance marks functionally identifying positions  
5        relative to the perpendicular portion of the end piece.

1        7.        The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the tape further includes:  
2                a set of outside distance indicators each for indicating a distance from the perpendicular  
3        portion of the end piece to a corresponding outside distance indicator.

1        8.        The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:  
2                the first set of distance marks includes major marks and minor marks; and  
3                the longitudinal dimension of the housing is not an integer multiple of a distance between  
4        adjacent major marks.

1        9.        An improvement in a tape measure, the tape measure including a housing having a  
2        longitudinal dimension from a distal edge to a proximal edge, and a retractable tape having a  
3        distal end and bearing distance marks and distance indicators, wherein the improvement  
4        comprises:

5                the distance indicators providing measurements from the distal end of the tape to the  
6        proximal edge of the housing;

7                whereby inside measurements may be directly made with the improved tape measure  
8        without a user having add in the distance of the longitudinal dimension.

1 10. The improvement of claim 9 in the tape measure, wherein the improvement further  
2 comprises:  
3 separate distance marks and distance indicators for inside measurement and for outside  
4 measurement.

1 11. The improvement of claim 10 in the tape measure, wherein the improvement further  
2 comprises:  
3 an end piece rigidly coupled to the tape and including a perpendicular section; and  
4 the inside measurement distance marks being offset along the tape from the outside  
5 measurement distance marks by a distance corresponding to a thickness of the perpendicular  
6 portion of the end piece.

1 12. The improvement of claim 9 in the tape measure, wherein the improvement further  
2 comprises:  
3 an end piece slideably coupled to the tape;  
4 the distance marks including major marks and minor marks;  
5 the distance indicators comprising outside measurement distance indicators and inside  
6 measurement distance indicators; and  
7 the longitudinal dimension of the housing is an integer multiple of a distance between  
8 adjacent major marks;  
9 whereby the outside distance indicators and the inside distance indicators are enabled to  
10 share the same set of distance marks.